

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1(Currently Amended). A metal gasket, in particular a cylinder head gasket for internal combustion engines, comprising at least one functional layer ~~showing~~having at least one through-opening, as well as at least one leveling layer ~~and/or cover layer~~ that partially covers the functional layer at least partially, said leveling layer being spaced radially outwardly from said opening to provide an uncovered portion of said functional layer immediately adjacent said opening; where the functional layer, in the pre-assembled, uncompressed state of the gasket, is ~~formed as~~ a flat piece of metal to which is assigned, at least in the area of the through-opening, at least one profiled body through which in the assembled, compressed state of the gasket ~~through a deformation of~~elastically deforms the functional layer to form at least one sealing area with elastic effect ~~can be created~~; wherein the profiled body is formed by a stopper element that is radially aligned with said uncovered portion of said functional layer and wherein the leveling layer is placed on a surface of the functional layer that is facing away from the stopper element.

2(Previously Presented). A gasket, according to claim 1 wherein the profiled body comprises incompressible material.

3(Previously Presented). A gasket, according to claim 1 wherein the profiled body comprises metal.

4(Withdrawn). A gasket, according to claim 1 wherein the profiled body comprises plastic.

5(Previously Presented). A gasket, according to claim 1 wherein the stopper element is formed by a separate ring element.

6(Currently Amended). A gasket, according to claim 1, wherein the stopper element is a folded over flange formed ~~is created~~ through the flanging of a metal ring element.

7(Currently Amended). A gasket, according to claim 1 wherein said gasket has two functional layers, the stopper element [[is]]being placed between said two functional layers where at least one of said at least one leveling layer is placed on the surface of the functional layer facing away from the stopper element.

8(Withdrawn). A gasket, according to claim wherein the profiled body is located in at least one leveling layer and/or cover layer on the side of the functional layer where, in the assembled state of the gasket, a corresponding elastic sealing area can be created in the functional layer (4) through the deformation of the functional layer.

9(Withdrawn). A gasket, according to claim 1 wherein the profiled body shows such a contour that in the corresponding functional layer at least one half bead-like area can be created.

10(Withdrawn). A gasket, according to claim 1 wherein the profiled body shows such a contour that in the corresponding functional layer at least one full bead-like area.

11(Withdrawn). A metal gasket, comprising in particular a cylinder head gasket for internal combustion engines, comprising at least one functional layer showing at least one through-opening, as well as at least one leveling layer and/or cover layer that covers the functional layer at least partially; where the functional layer, in the pre-assembled state of the gasket is formed as a flat piece of metal to which is assigned, at least in the area of the through- opening, at least one profiled body, through which in the assembled state of the gasket a deformation of the functional layer at least one sealing area with elastic effect can be created where at least one elevation and at least one cutout associated with the elevation are provided in the leveling layers and/or cover layers, located opposite each other; where the functional layer that is placed in between, and that is initially flat, and that in the assembled state is, at least in this area, deformable while building an elastic sealing area wherein the respective functional layer and the plane of the stopper element shows at least one leveling layer.

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12(Withdrawn). A gasket, according to claim 11 wherein the functional layer comprises spring steel.